

Husband:

WILLIAM ELTON

Born: 26 November 1726 Burlington County, New Jersey
Married: 24 August 1751 Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey
Died: 12 August 1777 Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey
Buried:
Father:
Mother:

Wife:

HANNAH BORRADAILE

Born: 8 December 1731 Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey
Died: 25 April 1799 Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey
Buried:
Father: ARTHUR BORRADAILE (2 November 1706 – 4 June 1760)
Mother: MARGERY ADAMS (1712 – 14 November 1763)

Issue:	Born:	Place:
1) BATHSHEBA ELTON	7pm 26 September 1753	Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey
2) ANTHONY ELTON	9 August 1755	Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey
3) WILLIAM ELTON	14 April 1758	Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey
4) JOHN ELTON	14 December 1759	Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey
5) HANNAH ELTON	20 November 1761	Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey
6) ELIZABETH ELTON	1 June 1764	Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey
7) MARY ELTON	1:30 am 19 March 176_	Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey
8) ANTHONY ELTON	10 pm 8 January 1770	Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey
9) WILLIAM ELTON	6:30 am 31 May 1772	Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey
10) SUSANNA ELTON	5 pm 2 July 1774	Burlington, Burlington County, New Jersey

The ten children named above come from a partially blank page of *The Rusticks Alarm to the Rabbies*, now in possession of Genealogical Society of New Jersey.¹ The page is torn, deleting the last digit in MARY's year of birth. The rather odd sounding book was a Quaker textbook for the century following its publication in 1660 by SAMUEL FISHER (1605 – 1665). He was an influential and controversial minister from Northampton who returned his license to preach to the Bishop in 1643, and joined the Baptist congregation in Ashford, Kent. He was introduced to the teachings of GEORGE FOX and joined the Religious Society of Friends in 1654. In 1658 he was repeatedly harassed by the authorities and was pulled out of a Quaker meeting by the hair and severely beaten the following year. He traveled to Rome, crossing the Alps on foot, and then to Constantinople to convince the Pope and the Sultan, respectively, of the errors of their ways. Returning to England he was imprisoned at Newgate in 1660, the Gatehouse at Westminster in 1661, Bridewell in 1662, and Newgate again before the year was out, this time being kept in a cell with so many other prisoners that only one person at a time could lay down. It was during the Newgate prison stay in 1660 he wrote Rusticus ad Academicos in Exercitationibus Expostulatoriis, Apologeticis Quattuor. The Rusticks Alarm to the Rabbies, or the Country correcting the University and Clergy, &c. He was arrested again and committed to White Lion Prison in Southwark, across the Thames from London, where he was held until 1664. Conditions

were so bad at the White Lion, which was located just north of Saint George's Church on Borough High Street, the Sheriff shut it down in 1666 and transferred the prisoners to the nearby Marshalsea prison. With the Great Plague of London running rampant through the city he was temporarily released from custody, going to the house of ANN TRAVERS, a Quaker at Dalton. There he contracted the plague and died on 31 August 1665.

The inscriptions in the book includes the time of birth for some of the children and the following additional information: ANTHONY ELTON died on 12 March 1757; WILLIAM ELTON, born in 1758, died on 21 January 1761; and WILLIAM ELTON, born in 1772, died on 20 August 1773.

There is no solid proof that they were Quakers but there are some hints beyond having the Quaker textbook just discussed and inscribing the children's names and dates of birth inside. At least 3 of their children were Friends, viz. BATHSHEBA, JOHN, and MARY and 3 others: SUSAN, ANTHONY, and ELIZABETH, *possibly* Friends. Witnesses at MARY's wedding included HANNAH ELTON and HANNAH ELTON, *JUNIOR* and these could very well be her mother and sister since only Friends could be a witness. Likewise, other ELTON witnesses were SUSAN, ANTHONY, and ELIZABETH – if they were not her siblings then it is one astounding coincidence. All told, it appears that all 7 children were Quakers at some point.

Their marriage bond is dated 24 August 1751. WILLIAM was a bondsman for PHILIP VENABLE when he married HANNAH's sister MARY on 11 December 1752.² In 1763 HANNAH received £5 pursuant to her mother's bequest. WILLIAM owned a cooper shop, making wooden baskets, tools and the like, in Burlington that he bought from WILLIAM BORRADAILLE, a relation of his wife no doubt, perhaps her brother or an uncle. They were living in *Burlington city* in 1773 – 1774.³

WILLIAM, *of Burlington*, signed his last Will and Testament on 8 June 1777, though the GSNJ gives the date as 16 August 1777. He nominated his wife as executrix and left her *the house and lot I purchased of PETER FREAN where I dwell*. He left *the land I bought of WILLIAM BORRADAIL with the cooper shop, when he is 21, but he to pay my son ANTHONY £35*. He declares that he gave his daughter BATHSHEBA CLARK £30 and directs the same amount to be given to each of his daughters, HANNAH, MARY, ELIZABETH, and SUSAN ELTON, when they reach 21. His Will was proved 1 December 1780.⁴

Issue:

- 1) BATHSHEBA ELTON: married BENJAMIN CLARK on 13 June 1775 at Burlington Meeting.⁵ BATHESHEBA CLARK was a witness to her sister MARY's wedding. Benjamin died intestate in Burlington in February 1793. BATHSHEBA was granted Letters of Administration on 1 March after she and her brother JOHN posted their bond.⁶
- 2) JOHN ELTON: may have married and lived in Burlington. An article dating to 1900 states there is a JOHN ELTON and his wife buried in Section 6, lots 10 and 11 in the *Friends Burial Ground* in Burlington but no dates are given.⁷ On 2 March 1786 JOHN ELTON obtained land in the town of Burlington from HANNAH ELTON; how the two are related to each other and if they are the persons discussed herein is uncertain.⁸ JOHN ELTON is named as a brother-in-law of JOHN LIPPINCOTT in the latter's last Will proved on 8 December 1789 in which he names his wife as ELIZABETH. Some have assumed this to mean ELIZABETH ELTON was his wife but this may not be correct.⁹ He was a co-bondsman for his sister BATHSHEBA in 1793 as mentioned above.
- 6) **MARY ELTON:** married **ROBERT THOMAS** on 13 November 1788. Continued in separate file.

Notes

Only one man with this surname appears in Pennsylvania records of this time and that is ANTHONY ELTON, owner of two properties: 8 acres in *Sacamaxin land by Cohoxin creek* (the extinct Cohocksink Creek in Northern Liberties and Kensington; now underground) and a Philadelphia town lot on the east side of Third Street near *Mulberry*, now Arch.¹⁰ ANTHONY appears on the *Draught* list known as “*An Accompt of the Lands in Pennsylvania granted by William Penn, Esq^r. Sole-Proprietarie and Governor*” of original purchasers as having 500 acres under XXV taken up by him. That entry has includes “D. Ft. 100” and nothing in “S. Ft.” and 8 under “No. as.”¹¹ Same name appears in the Burlington County Court Book on multiple occasions including appointment as Overseer of Highways for Northampton in 1690; names ELIZABETH as his wife; ANTHONY buys ANNE BRADGATE for 1 year. She was found guilty of stealing but, when brought into Court, alleges that she was repeatedly raped by JAMES BLAKE while being held to which ELIZABETH BASSNET offers testimony in her support. ANTHONY ELTON is named among a group of grantees in an early *Indian purchase*. He also has three surveys recorded for him in Burlington County between 1688 and 1695; one for 150 acres, the second with 178 acres, and the third had 320 acres.¹² The name ANTHONY ELTON appears as juror and justice throughout the Court book until 1702 but it can not be determined exactly who is being referenced – father, son, brother? The same name appears in the 1998 reprint of a 1944 publication of said Court Book as owner of a proprietary share of WJ and not a Quaker.¹³ ANTHONY ELTON was born in Yattsbury parish, Wiltshire around 1635 to ROBERT and JANE ELTON; he died before July 1687. He was married twice: by his wife ELIZABETH he had a son REVELL; by his wife SUSANNA he had ANTHONY JUNIOR, MARY (1660), JANE (married SAMUEL ABBET), GEORGE (1669), THOMAS (1671), and ROBERT ELTON of Antigua (1673). He bought, ultimately, a 16th share in WJ in 1677 from THOMAS HOOTEN. Several colonial land transfers from the late 1680s involve SUSANNA ELTON, her son ANTHONY ELTON, JUNIOR, and JOHN RIDGES in a matter of unappropriated land in Burlington County and involved the County Court.¹⁴ WIDOW ELTON appears in 1695 with a plantation at Eversham or Evesham when that land is determined to be in that township, not Chester. Another name that appears in Burlington County colonial land transfers is REVEL ELTON who is a contemporary of WILLIAM ELTON and may be REVELL, son of REVELL.

¹ “Family Records: William and Hannah Elton,” *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, 76, 2:83-84 (May 2001); file 3235, from the Howard Deacon Papers, Gertrude Brick collection, Rutgers Special Collections and University Archives.

² Henrietta Brady Brown, *Some VENABLES of England and America* (1961) pp. 182 – 183. Digital copy at: http://www.wallace-venable.name/Venable_Genealogy/Some_Venables_of_England_and_America.pdf

³ *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, 36:51.

⁴ A. VanDoren Honeyman (ed). *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey*, First Series, Vol. 34, Calendar of Wills 1771 – 1780, 5:163 (Trenton, NJ; 1931). Digital copy at Archives.org.

⁵ Rancocas-Burlington Monthly Meeting, Minutes, List of Marriages, p. 11; available at Ancestry.com.

⁶ Elmer T. Hutchinson(ed). *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey*, First Series, Vol. 37, Calendar of Wills 1791 – 1795, 8:73. (Jersey City, NJ; 1942) Digital copy at Archives.org.

⁷ Rowland J. Dutton, “Friends’ Burial-Ground, Burlington, New Jersey,” *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*

(24, 1: 159) 1900. Digital copy at https://dcms.lids.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE47035.

- ⁸ New Jersey Secretary of State's Office, Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650 – 1856; New Jersey Deeds, A-Q, folio 173; housed at New Jersey State Archives. Early Land Records Database at <https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us>.
- ⁹ Elmer T. Hutchinson (ed). Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey, First Series, Vol. 36, Calendar of Wills 1786 – 1790, 7:138. (Trenton, NJ; 1941) Digital copy at Archives.org.
- ¹⁰ William H. Egle (ed). *"Explanation of Reed's Map of the City and Liberties,"* Pennsylvania Archives, 3, 3:332, 346, 400. (Harrisburg, PA: Secretary of State; 1896). Digital copy at HathiTrust.org.
- ¹¹ William Henry Egle (ed). Draughts of the Proprietary Manors in the Province of Pennsylvania. (Harrisburg, PA. (1895). Digital copy at HathiTrust.org.
- ¹² New Jersey Secretary of State's Office, Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650 – 1856; Basse A (Surveys 1 – 206) Folios 1, 2, 145; Council of Proprietors of West New Jersey Surveys and Warrants, ca. 1680-1952; Book A (WJ Surveys), folio 9 and Leeds Book (WJ Surveys), folio 15/[16]; housed at New Jersey State Archives. Early Land Records Database at <https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us>.
- ¹³ H. Clay Reed and George J. Miller (eds). The Burlington County Court Book of West New Jersey 1680 – 1709 (reprint Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1998; original Washington, DC: American Historical Association, 1944) *passim* but especially pp. 120, 127, 182, 187. Digital version at www.westjerseyhistory.org.
- ¹⁴ New Jersey Secretary of State's Office, Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650 – 1856; West Jersey Deeds, B, folios 166, 167, 258, 558, 559, 735 and WJ Loose Records, Elton, Susanna (24956); housed at New Jersey State Archives. Early Land Records Database at <https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us>.